

## I CLAIM:

1           1. A hydrocyclone separating apparatus comprising:  
2           a housing subdivided into a central chamber provided  
3 with an input port and a pair of end chambers having respective  
4 outlet ports;  
5           a plurality of hydrocyclones extending across the  
6 central chamber between the end chambers, the hydrocyclones each  
7 having an intake in the central chamber and an end output in each  
8 of the output chambers, whereby a fluent mixture pumped via the  
9 input port into the central chamber is separated by the  
10 hydrocyclones into a light fraction exiting one of the end  
11 chambers from the respective outlet port and a heavy fraction  
12 exiting the other of the end chambers from the respective outlet  
13 port; and  
14           a layer of low-friction durable material coating outer  
15 surfaces of the hydrocyclones in the central chamber.

1           2. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 1 wherein the material is polytetrafluoroethylene.

1           3. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 2 wherein the layer has a thickness of at least 8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

1           4. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 2 wherein the layer has a thickness of about 17  $\mu$ m.

1           5. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 1 wherein the layer is plastic and includes film-forming  
3 resins.

1           6. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 1 wherein the layer is plastic and the layer includes  
3 mineral fillers.

1           7. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 1 wherein the outer surface underneath the layer is  
3 roughened.

1           8. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 7 wherein the outer surface is laser-roughened.

1                   9. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 7 wherein the outer surface is roughened by etching.

1                   10. The hydrocyclone separating apparatus defined in  
2 claim 7 wherein the outer surface is roughened by application of  
3 thermally sprayed-on hard granules.